

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pocket lighter comprising:
a gas container having an outlet valve through
which ignitable gas is released;
an igniter device having a reciprocative
plunger, said igniter device being operative to
produce a spark when said plunger is axially moved;
a thumb actuator operative to cause opening of
said outlet valve and axial movement of said
reciprocative plunger to thereby produce a controlled
flame; and
said pocket lighter being constructed and
arranged such that at least ten pounds of force are
required to operate said thumb actuator.

2. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 1,
wherein a valve spring is situated so as to operate
against opening of said outlet valve; said valve
spring contributing to the force required to operate
said thumb actuator.

3. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 2,
wherein said pocket lighter comprises an outlet tube
in fluid communication with said outlet valve and
said valve spring comprises a helical spring located
about said outlet tube.

4. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 1,
wherein said outlet valve is opened via a pivotal
lever engaged by said thumb actuator.

5. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 4,
wherein a fulcrum location of said pivotal lever is
located approximately 2.0 millimeters from an axis of
said outlet valve.

6. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 4,
wherein said lever and said outlet valve contribute

at least about two pounds of force to the force required to operate said thumb actuator.

~~7. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 1, further comprising at least one actuator spring contributing to the force required to operate said thumb actuator.~~

~~8. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 7, wherein said at least one actuator spring is operative to contribute at least about five pounds of force to the force required to operate said thumb actuator.~~

~~9. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 7, wherein said at least one actuator spring comprises a pair of coaxial helical springs.~~

~~10. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 7, wherein said actuator spring is located beside said igniter device.~~

~~11. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 7, wherein said actuator spring is located beneath a bottom surface of said igniter device.~~

~~12. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 1, comprising an outer housing having a housing end cap configured to be fit therein.~~

~~13. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 12, comprising an actuator spring located between said housing end cap and said thumb actuator to provide a predetermined force for operation of said thumb actuator.~~

~~14. A pocket lighter comprising:
an outer housing having an open end;
a housing end cap configured to be fit into said open end of said outer housing;
a gas container located in said housing, said~~

gas container having an outlet valve through which ignitable gas is released;

an igniter device located in said housing, said igniter device having a reciprocative plunger operative to produce a spark when axially moved;

10 a thumb actuator located at said housing end cap and moveable with respect thereto, said thumb actuator operative to cause opening of said outlet valve and axial movement of said reciprocative plunger to thereby produce a controlled flame; and

15 an actuator spring located between said housing end cap and said thumb actuator to provide a predetermined force for operation of said thumb actuator.

15. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 14, wherein said actuator spring is a helical spring.

16. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 15, wherein said helical spring is located about a shaft of said thumb actuator.

17. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 16, wherein said thumb actuator has a button portion located at one end of said shaft, said helical spring engaging a bottom surface of said helical spring.

18. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 14, wherein said outlet valve is opened via a pivotal lever engaged by said thumb actuator.

19. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 18, wherein a fulcrum location of said pivotal lever is located approximately 2.0 millimeters from an axis of said outlet valve.

20. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 18, wherein said lever and said outlet valve contribute at least about two pounds of force to the force

required to operate said thumb actuator.

21. A pocket lighter comprising:
an outer housing having an open end;
a housing end cap configured to be fit into said
open end of said outer housing;

5 a gas container located in said housing, said
gas container having an outlet valve through which
ignitable gas is released;

10 an igniter device located in said housing, said
igniter device having a reciprocative plunger
operative to produce a spark when axially moved;

15 a thumb actuator located at said housing end cap
and moveable with respect thereto, said thumb
actuator operative to cause opening of said outlet
valve and axial movement of said reciprocative
plunger to thereby produce a controlled flame;

a pivotal lever extending between said outlet
valve and said thumb actuator; and

20 said pocket lighter being constructed and
arranged such that at least ten pounds of force are
required to operate said thumb actuator.

21. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 21,
wherein a fulcrum location of said pivotal lever is
located approximately 2.0 millimeters from an axis of
said outlet valve.

22. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 21,
wherein said lever and said outlet valve contribute
at least about two pounds of force to the force
required to operate said thumb actuator.

23. A pocket lighter as set forth in claim 21,
further comprising a head cover pivotally connected
to said housing end cap.